

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of nucleotides 294 through 740 of SEQ ID NO:2 encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides 294 through 740 of SEQ ID NO:2 encoding the polypeptide of claim 5.

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 the polypeptide of claim 6.

11. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a strand that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a single stranded probe, the sequence of which probe consists of nucleotides 294 through 740 of SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that inhibits the differentiation of myoblasts in to myotubes, and wherein the high stringency conditions comprise hybridization at 68°C for at least 1 hour and washing in 2X SSC containing 0.1% SDS.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 11 ~~12~~, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

14. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the strand is at least 15 nucleotides in length.
15. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid is an antisense nucleic acid that inhibits expression of a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1.
16. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim ~~15~~ 11, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15 nucleotides in length.
17. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 8.
18. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 9.
19. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10.
20. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 11.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 8.
23. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 9.
24. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 10.
25. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 11.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing the cultured host cell of claim 22 in a culture, expressing the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid in the cultured host cell, and isolating the polypeptide from the culture.

29-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide the sequence of which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 with 0 to 50 conservative amino acid substitutions, wherein the polypeptide inhibits the differentiation of myoblasts into myotubes.

35. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 34, wherein the number of conservative amino acid substitutions is 0 to 30.

36. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 34, wherein the number of conservative amino acid substitutions is 0 to 10.

37. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 70% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that inhibits the differentiation of myoblasts into myotubes.

38. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2.

39. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO:2.
40. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that encodes a polypeptide the amino acid sequence of which is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polypeptide inhibits the differentiation of myoblasts into myotubes.
41. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 40, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.
42. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 40, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.
43. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of residues 76 through 149 of SEQ ID NO:1.
44. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of residues 76 through 149 of SEQ ID NO:1.
45. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of residues 1 through 75 of SEQ ID NO:1.
46. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of residues 1 through 75 of SEQ ID NO:1.